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Anti-spying demonstrator in Washington DC, the capital of the USA

## INTERNATIONAL ANGER AT SPYING REPORTS

On 29th October a group, or delegation, from Germany travelled to the USA. The following day they met with American intelligence officials. Their talks followed reports in German newspapers that the USA had been spying on Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, or leader.

The German newspapers claimed that the USA's National Security Agency (NSA) had been listening to Mrs Merkel's mobile phone calls and reading her text messages. One of the NSA's main jobs is to collect intelligence. This means it tries to gather political and military information or secrets about other nations. Nowadays most people understand that their countries gather intelligence. Yet many believe they only spy on enemies and not on friends, or allies.

Secretly listening to, and recording, people's private phone calls can be called surveillance, spying, monitoring,

bugging, eavesdropping, or wiretapping. Intelligence organisations such as the NSA do this in several ways. One is to work with telephone and internet companies. Another is to 'tap into' undersea communication cables and satellites.

The stories about Mrs Merkel's phone being bugged by the NSA come from Edward Snowden. He is now living in Russia. Mr Snowden is an American citizen. In the past he was an employee of a company that worked with the NSA.

It's thought that Mr Snowden passed documents and secret information about the NSA to two newspapers: *The Washington Post*, from the USA, and *The Guardian*, from the UK. People who take the risk of making secret documents public are often described as 'leakers' or 'whistleblowers'. *The Guardian* has reported that the NSA has monitored the phones of 35 world leaders.

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Mrs Merkel was said to be very angry about her phone being bugged. She is known to frequently use her mobile phone. Some Germans even joke that 'she runs the country by text message'. Mrs Merkel telephoned Barack Obama, the president of the USA, to complain. Later an official, who works for the president, explained that the NSA would not bug Mrs Merkel's phone. However, he did not say that her phone had not been monitored in the past. Some reports suggested that the NSA had been eavesdropping on her phone calls for at least ten years.



Barack Obama and Angela Merkel

Last July the leaders of several countries in Latin America complained about American spying. They included Dilma Rousseff, the president of Brazil. This was after a Brazilian newspaper reported that the NSA was running a large surveillance operation in the country. Because of these reports Ms Rousseff decided to cancel a visit to the USA. Leaders in other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Chile and Colombia also complained. They too accused the NSA of spying on them.

After the stories about Mrs Merkel's phone, newspapers in other European countries began printing 'bugging' stories. In France it was reported that the NSA had been recording private phone calls and text messages of millions of French

people. The French president, François Hollande, called Mr Obama to find out if this was true. Something similar happened in Spain. There newspapers **alleged** that millions of Spanish calls were being monitored.

In Italy newspapers reported that both the USA and the UK had been spying on Italians. The USA and the UK are known to work together on gathering certain types of intelligence. In the UK most intelligence is collected by an organisation called Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). The Italian newspapers claimed that the NSA and GCHQ had eavesdropped on three undersea cables that connect Italy to other parts of the world.

On 29th October NSA officials claimed that they had done nothing wrong. They said newspaper reports about them recording millions of telephone calls in Europe and Latin America were incorrect. The wire taps, they explained, were done by the countries' own intelligence operations. The NSA officials seemed to be saying that these countries were then happy to share the information with the NSA.

In 2001 an Islamic militant group, called al-Qaeda, carried out a number of attacks in the USA. Hijacked planes were deliberately flown into buildings in New York City and the Pentagon. The Pentagon, which is America's military headquarters, is near Washington DC, the country's capital. Around 3,000 people died in the attacks.

After these attacks the government of the USA was worried that more were being planned. It wanted to catch the people who organised them. To do this the government gave the NSA permission to secretly collect and record communications

from other countries. This included telephone calls, emails, texts and web chats. However, in the USA there is a law that means it is illegal to spy on Americans.

The newspapers in South America and Europe are believed to have got the spying stories from the 'leaks' made by Mr Snowden. When working for the NSA Mr Snowden lived in Hawaii. About five months ago he travelled to Hong Kong, in China. He did this without telling his girlfriend or the people he worked with.

While in Hong Kong Mr Snowden gave some of the information he had collected about the NSA to the two newspapers. This seemed to show that the NSA collected large amounts of data, or records of people's phone calls and internet use. This included people living in the USA. Mr Snowden said he decided to become a whistleblower because he disagreed with what the NSA was doing.

The government of the USA asked officials in Hong Kong to arrest Mr Snowden. Yet before anything happened he managed to fly from Hong Kong to Moscow, the capital of Russia. Russian authorities gave him permission to stay for 12 months.

Many Americans support Mr Snowden. They believe that he was right to leak the secret information about the NSA. Some of these people have taken part in small anti-spying protests in Washington DC.

The leaders of several European countries such as France and Germany say that they now want to arrange a no-spy agreement with the USA. One of these agreements already exists. Called 'Five Eyes', it includes the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. ■

## GENDER GAP REPORT

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) latest Gender Gap report was published on 24th October. The WEF first produced this report in 2006. Since then it has been published every year. The report tries to measure the difference in opportunities that men and women have in over 100 countries.

The WEF was set up in 1971. It is based in Switzerland. The WEF is best known for its annual meeting. This takes place in a Swiss town called Davos. Nowadays this meeting is often just called 'Davos'.



(IMF). Religious leaders and trades unionists, as well as leading musicians, actors, artists, and journalists are also given invitations.

Even though it is not a political meeting, some specially selected politicians are also invited. The annual meeting is meant to be informal. The WEF says it is a time when important and powerful people can discuss their ideas. The WEF's slogan is 'com-

mitted to improving the state of the world'. As well as organising meetings the WEF also publishes a number of reports. One is the Gender Gap report.

To produce the report WEF researchers try to work out if women have equal opportunities to men in four areas. These include education, health, the possibility of becoming involved in politics and how easy it is to get well-paid jobs. Health also includes life expectancy. This is the average number of years that people live for. The world average is 68 for men and 72 for women.

This year's report covered 133 countries. It lists all of them in order of gender parity. For example, if there was 100% parity in a country, men and women would have equal opportunities in the four areas. Some countries may have parity in education, but there may not be equal opportunities in other areas.

The report says that the country with the smallest gender gap is Iceland. This is the fifth year running that Iceland has come top. Finland, Norway and Sweden came second, third and fourth. These nations, together with Denmark, are known as the Nordic countries. All are in northern Europe. The Philippines

was fifth, three places higher than last year.

Denmark came eighth. One reason for the Nordic countries having smaller gender gaps is childcare. The governments of all these countries have special childcare laws. These make it easier for women with young families to go out to work.

In the report the UK was 18th and the USA 23rd. Cuba, one of the few remaining communist countries, was 15th. ■

## HISTORIC HOUSE

On 29th October officials in the state of California, in the USA, made an announcement. They declared that a house in the city of Los Altos had been designated as a historic site. The one-storey home with three bedrooms was where Steve Jobs lived when he first started the Apple Company in 1976.

Steve Jobs died, aged 56, in 2011. He had been ill for several years with a type of cancer. Jobs was an inventor and successful businessman. Most people believe that he changed the way that people use computers, listen to music, operate mobile phones, and how animated films are produced.

Jobs and the team that worked with him designed and produced some of the world's best-selling consumer electronic items. These include the iPod, iPhone and iPad as well as Apple computers.

Jobs was born in California in 1955. As a baby Paul and Clara Jobs adopted him. When he was 17 years old he went to college, but left after just one term. At that time he and his family lived in the house in Los Altos.

In 1976 a friend called Steve Wozniak showed Jobs a computer that he

**WEF Global Gender Gap**

Top 15	2013	2012	
Iceland	1	1	►
Finland	2	2	►
Norway	3	3	►
Sweden	4	4	►
Philippines	5	8	▲
Ireland	6	5	▼
New Zealand	7	6	▼
Denmark	8	7	▼
Switzerland	9	10	▲
Nicaragua	10	9	▼
Belgium	11	12	▲
Latvia	12	15	▲
Netherlands	13	11	▼
Germany	14	13	▼
Cuba	15	19	▲

Around 2,500 people go to the WEF's annual meeting. It usually takes place around the end of January. Only those invited can attend. They are usually the bosses of the world's biggest companies and leaders of international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund



had made. Jobs was impressed. The two friends set up a company to make and sell the computers. They called it Apple. At first the company was based in Jobs's home. The first 100 Apple computers were made in the garage and living room of the house.

As the company grew it moved to a nearby city called Cupertino. This is where Apple still has its headquarters.



Steve Jobs's former home

In 1985 the company launched its Macintosh computer. It was the first small computer to have a mouse and to use onscreen icons. John Sculley, an experienced businessman, was invited to run the company. Yet after a few years he and Jobs began to disagree with each other. Eventually Jobs was forced to leave.

He then set up another computer company called NeXT. He also took over a different business. This company was renamed Pixar. It worked with the Disney Company to make a number of animated films such as *Toy Story*.

After Jobs left Apple it began to have problems. It was losing a lot of money and many people thought it might close down. Jobs persuaded Apple to buy his NeXT Company. So 12 years after leaving Apple Jobs returned. Within a short time he was made the company's new boss.

Jobs reorganised Apple and soon the company was making money again. In 1988 it launched the iMac

computer, which used software designed by the NeXT Company. The iPod went on sale in 2001. The iTunes software and iTunes music store soon followed.

In 2007 Apple produced its first mobile phone. Called the iPhone, it was a combination of an iPod, a mobile phone and an internet device. It was also the first mobile phone to have a large touch-screen. Just before Jobs died Apple had become one of the two most valuable companies in the world.

As the house is now a historic site it cannot be altered without the owner getting permission. Jobs's sister owns the house and his step-mother still lives there. ■

## PAIN FREE MICE

Researchers in the USA are hoping that their recent study will help to find new ways of pain relief. Surprisingly, they believe that a small mammal, called the grasshopper mouse, could help humans to feel less pain.

Grasshopper mice live in desert areas in the USA and Mexico. The mice are about 13 centimetres (five inches) long and have a short tail. Even though they are small, grasshopper mice are carnivores, or meat-eaters. They hunt and feed on insects (including grasshoppers), worms and a type of scorpion called the bark scorpion.

Bark scorpions also live in desert areas. They are light brown in colour. Male bark scorpions are around ten centimetres (four inches) in length. Females are smaller. The scorpions can climb walls and trees. They are more active at night. During the day they often hide under tree bark, rocks and pieces of wood. The scorpions

have a tail that is usually curled up. At the end of it is a 'stinger' that they use to attack other creatures.

If a person is stung by one of these scorpions it is very painful. Their sting can cause violent shaking and a loss of breath. Some people describe the pain as feeling like electric shocks.

Grasshopper mice hunt and eat bark scorpions. While attacking the scorpions the mice are often stung several times. Yet these stings do not seem to affect them. The venom in the scorpion's sting would normally kill an animal the size of a grasshopper mouse. Venom is a type of poison.

To find out why they were not affected by the scorpion venom the researchers studied nerve cells in the mice. These cells would normally be expected to 'send' the feeling of pain to the brain through certain 'channels'. The researchers discovered that the nerve cells in the mice reacted in a different way. When the mouse is stung the venom turns the channel off. It therefore stops the nerve cells from being able to send any pain signals.



Grasshopper mouse

The researchers discovered that grasshopper mice do feel some pain. They tested this by injecting them with other chemicals that cause pain. However, this pain was reduced if the mice were injected with the scorpion venom at the same time.

Therefore, in the mouse, instead of causing pain the venom acts like a drug that relieves it.



*Bark scorpion*

Studying how the nerve cells in the mice work could lead to new medical treatments. It might be possible to develop a drug that 'switches off' pain in the same way that the venom does in the grasshopper mouse. ■

## WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM

This year's World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) took place between 29th and 31st October. It was held in London, the capital of the UK. This was the first time that the WIEF had been held in a non-Muslim country.

The WIEF's headquarters is in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia. It organises a large meeting every year. This annual meeting, called the Main Forum, usually lasts for three or four days. In the past it has been held in Muslim countries such as Pakistan, Kuwait and Indonesia.

The WIEF was set up in 2006. Its purpose is to promote business and trade in the Muslim world. It wants there to be more companies in Muslim countries and for these businesses to work together.

The WIEF believes that businesses that make money can help people in their countries. One way of doing this is by creating jobs that need workers with certain skills. The WIEF also

tries to encourage younger people to be entrepreneurs, or to set up their own companies. The organisation's motto, or slogan, is 'Building Bridges Through Business'.

Some people were surprised by the WIEF's decision to hold its annual meeting in the UK. However, the UK has a large Muslim population. Many Muslim banks have big offices in London. The leaders of the WIEF said that they wanted their annual meeting to be more of a 'worldwide' event. It should, they explained, be where Muslims and non-Muslims can meet and talk about economics and business. Many UK companies attended the event. All hoped to meet Islamic companies that they could work with.

The UK now plans to be the first non-Muslim country to sell a bond that Islamic investors are able to buy. Most countries' governments borrow money by selling bonds. In the UK these bonds are called Gilts. American government bonds are known as Treasuries, or T-bonds.



The money that governments get from selling bonds has to be paid back. This, depending on the type of bond, could be in five, ten or 25 years' time. The investors, or those who buy the bonds, are also paid a certain amount of interest. Yet paying or charging interest under Islamic law is **forbidden**. Therefore Muslim investors cannot buy these types of government bonds.

Bonds sold by governments of Muslim countries are known as

Sukuks. Investors who buy these bonds do not receive any interest. Instead they get some of the profit made from the 'bond money'. For example, the bond money might be used to construct a new building. Then, when the building is sold, those who paid for the bonds also get some of the profit from the sale.

The leaders of 19 Islamic countries attended this year's Main Forum. David Cameron, the UK's prime minister, gave a welcome address, or speech. Prince Charles, the son of Queen Elizabeth the Second, also visited the event. ■

## RAT ISLAND RENAMED

Officials in Alaska have reported that many types of seabirds have now returned to Rat Island. An operation to get rid of all the rats on this island began in 2008. The returning birds show that it has been a success.

Alaska is one of the USA's 50 states. Rat Island is one of the Aleutian Islands, which are part of Alaska. The Aleutians are a long string, or chain, of islands in the northern Pacific Ocean. There are 14 larger islands and 57 smaller ones. The islands form a curved line between Alaska and the Kamchatka Peninsula. This large peninsula is part of Russia. The bigger islands are all volcanic and earthquakes are common.

Many of the Aleutians are uninhabited, or have no people living on them. The local people who live on some of the larger islands are known as Aleuts. (They are also called the Unangan people.)

Nobody lives on Rat Island. The rats came from a Japanese ship, which was wrecked on the island in 1780. Before it sank some of the

rats on board managed to get onto the island.

Many types of birds are found on the Aleutian Islands. The seabirds lay their eggs on rocks near the coast. The others make their nests on the ground. Therefore, on Rat Island the rats could easily attack the nests and eat the birds' chicks and eggs. Over time the number of rats increased and the birds disappeared.

Later, people who visited the island said it was infested with rats. This is why it was named Rat Island. These people also described how they were unable to hear any birds. Seabirds often make their nests in large groups, or colonies. These colonies are usually very noisy.



Hawadax Island (USFWS)

In 2008 a team of scientists and environmentalists decided to try to exterminate, or kill, all the rats on Rat Island. They arranged for helicopters to drop hundreds of tonnes of rat poison around the whole island. Now, for the first time in over 220 years the island is 'rat-free'.

Environmentalists say that many species of seabirds have now come back to the island to make their nests. These include oystercatchers,

puffins, petrels and gulls. The ground-nesting birds such as wrens, sparrows, eagles, and falcons have also returned. Visitors to Rat Island claim it is very different. The noise of birds, they say, can now be heard all over the island.

As there are no more rats, the island has been officially renamed. Its new name is Hawadax Island. In the Aleut language *hawadax* means 'those two over there'. The name refers to the two knolls, or mounds, on the island. ■

## BUSHFIRES IN AUSTRALIA

Over 1,500 firefighters have been trying to put out a number of wildfires in the state of New South Wales, in Australia. For a time local officials were worried that the flames would spread to the outskirts of Sydney. This is the largest city in the country.

In Australia the forests are often called 'the bush'. This is why wildfires in the country are known as bushfires. These fires are common during the summer months. This is because the forests become dry and summer temperatures are often very hot. This fire is unusual as it began in early summer. Bushfires in Australia do not normally break out before December.

The bushfires near Sydney first began on 13th October. Five days later there were over 100 separate fires. Strong warm winds helped to spread the flames. When bushfires start, winds will blow burning embers high into the air. These can then start other fires where they fall back to the ground.

People whose houses were close to the fires were advised to leave. On 20th October officials declared

a state of emergency. When this happens firefighters have the power to force people to move from their homes. At one time firefighters were trying to stop a wall of flames that was almost 306 kilometres (190 miles) long.

Large bushfires are very difficult to extinguish, or put out. Usually firefighters just try to control them. Once this happens they eventually die out, as there is nothing left to burn. Rainy weather can also help to extinguish them.



Bushfire in Australia

One way firefighters in Australia try to control fires is called 'back burning'. To stop large fires spreading or joining together they deliberately set fire to other parts of the bush. These 'deliberate' fires are then carefully controlled. When the bushfire reaches these areas, which are already burnt, it will begin to go out.

One reason bushfires can spread so quickly in Australia is because of its eucalyptus forests. There are many types of eucalyptus trees. Most are native to Australia, where they are known as gum trees.

Eucalyptus trees have evolved, or adapted, to survive in a bushfire. Their bark peels off in long strips. On the ground there are many dead eucalyptus leaves. Even a small spark can cause these to catch fire. The fire then quickly spreads to the peeling bark and then to the leaves at the top of the trees.



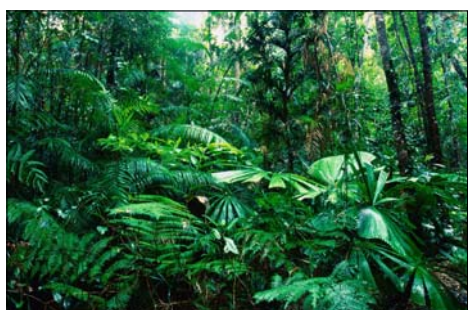
Eucalyptus leaves contain a type of oil. This is flammable, or can easily catch fire. Once the leaves start burning the flames quickly spread from tree to tree. Because of the way in which gum trees can help to spread wildfires some people call them 'gasoline trees'.

After the bushfire is out eucalyptus have an advantage over other types of trees. New buds quickly sprout from under their burnt bark. On the ground fire makes their seeds open. Gum trees are also able to grow very quickly in soils that contain a lot of ash. After a bushfire eucalyptus trees can soon outgrow all the other trees and bushes.

The bushfires near Sydney killed two people and destroyed over 250 houses. Some Australian soldiers had been training where one of the larger fires began. Officials admitted that the soldiers might have started the fire accidentally. ■

## AMAZON RAINFOREST STUDY

More than 100 researchers have completed a study of the trees in the Amazon rainforest. Their work is based on information that took over ten years to collect. The study estimates that the rainforest contains about 390 billion trees.



Amazon rainforest

The Amazon rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. It is also known as Amazonia or the Amazon

jungle. The rainforest covers an area of around six million square kilometres (2.3 million square miles). Most of it is in Brazil. Yet parts of the forest are in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname. The trees in Amazonia make up about half of the world's remaining rainforest.

Most scientists agree that the Amazon rainforest is one of the world's best defences against global warming and climate change. This is because its billions of trees take in, or absorb, large amounts of carbon dioxide from the air. The trees also produce oxygen. It's thought that roughly 20% of the world's oxygen comes from the Amazon rainforest. For this reason the Amazon jungle is often described as 'the lungs of the world'.

The researchers worked in each of the nine countries that are part of Amazonia. They recorded the number of trees in 1,170 similar sized plots, or areas. After adding these numbers together they worked out total figures for the whole rainforest.

The study shows that there are about 16,000 different types, or species, of trees in the rainforest. Surprisingly 227 of these are much more common or **dominant**. Therefore, about half of the trees in the whole rainforest are these more dominant species. The most common is a thin palm tree called *Euterpe precatoria*. The study estimates that there are five billion of these palm trees growing in Amazonia.

Of the 16,000 different species some are very rare. Around 5,800 species have fewer than 1,000 trees. Some of these do not grow anywhere else in the world. This means that they could be classified as endangered.

None of the 227 dominant species is found throughout the

rainforest. Each grows best in a certain type of area such as swampland or higher ground.

The researchers say they are unsure why these species are so common. It could be that they are more **resistant** to diseases and insects that cause damage.



The dominant trees include Brazil nut, cacao (from which chocolate is made), rubber and acai berry. Europeans first arrived in South America in 1492. Yet the native people of Amazonia farmed, or cultivated, these trees long before this. Some people think this explains why these species are now more common in Amazonia. However, others believe these types of trees were dominant long before any humans lived in this part of the world. ■

## KATYN MASSACRE

On 21st October the European Court of Human Rights announced its **verdict** on what has become known as the Katyn massacre. Judges said the court was unable to decide if a Russian investigation into the killings was inadequate, or did not go far enough. The Russian investigation took place between 1990 and 2004.

The European Court of Human Rights was set up in 1959. It is based in the city of Strasbourg, in France. People or groups of people who live in most European countries can ask

the court to make judgements. They can do this if they think their 'rights' or 'human rights' have been ignored or denied.

The Katyn massacre took place in 1940, soon after the Second World War began. The war started in 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Before it began Germany and Soviet Russia made a secret agreement. Then Joseph Stalin led communist Russia. The agreement meant that as soon as German troops entered Poland from the west, Russian troops would invade Poland from the east.

After Poland surrendered, the Russians captured thousands of Polish army officers. They also took many professional people, such as doctors and professors, prisoner. All of them were sent to Russia where they were kept in camps. Soon afterwards most were shot by the Russian secret police. The order to murder all these prisoners was approved by Stalin.

It's believed that the secret police shot around 22,000 Polish prisoners. Their bodies were buried in mass graves. The largest of these were in the Katyn forest. This is about 19 kilometres (12 miles) from the Russian city of Smolensk.



One of the Katyn memorials in Poland

In 1941 the German army invaded Russia. It then began to advance towards Moscow, the Russian capital city. During this advance the

## NewsCAST

**MOUNTAIN LIGHT** — The town of Rjukan, in Norway, has become much brighter. High mountains surround the town. For six months of the year, during Norway's long winter, the town is in the shade. During these months it gets no direct sunlight. However, on clear days, bright sunlight can be seen on the mountaintops to the north of the town. Recently three large mirrors, called heliostats, were placed on top of one of the mountains. The mirrors were lowered into place by a helicopter. They have been positioned so that they follow the Sun, as it appears to move across the sky. The heliostats have been set at an angle so they reflect sunlight into the town below. This means that, on sunny days during the winter, there is a 200 square metre (2,150 square foot) area of bright sunlight in the centre of the town.

German army occupied much of western Russia. This included the area around Smolensk. In 1943 the Germans discovered some of the mass graves in the forest. They told other countries, such as the USA and the UK, what they had discovered. However, at that time, some people suspected that it was the Germans who had committed the crime and not the Russians.

By 1944 the Russian army had recaptured the area where the mass graves are. Russian leaders then declared that it was the Germans who had carried out the massacre. They claimed it was done after the German army invaded Russia. Most people believed them.

However, many Poles were sure that the Russians were to blame. After the end of the war in 1945

Poland was occupied by Russia. It then became part of the Russian-led Soviet Union.

In 1989 the Soviet Union began to break up. Its leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, finally admitted that the Polish prisoners had been killed by Russian secret police. He also said there were several other mass graves. Mr Gorbachev declared that an investigation would be done to find out exactly what had happened. No one has ever been punished for the Katyn massacre.

In 2011 a group of 15 Polish people took their case to the European Court. All had relatives that were killed in the massacre. They believe the massacre was genocide and that the Russian investigation was not done properly. The judges said the court was unable to decide if this was true. One problem, they explained, was that the crime had happened long before the European Court was set up. ■

## NEAR SPACE BALLOON

A company from America has recently announced that it plans to take passengers on a 'near space trip'. Called World View Enterprise it has designed a capsule that will be attached to a large balloon. The company says that the first flight will be in 2016.

The balloon will be filled with helium. This gas is much lighter than air. The company claims that the capsule design is similar to the International Space Station (ISS). Inside will be enough room for eight people. Two will be crew members and the others will be passengers who have paid to go on the trip. Like a passenger plane the capsule will be pressurised. It will also need to



protect those inside from radiation and very cold temperatures.

The balloon and capsule will rise to a height of 30 kilometres (19 miles) above the Earth's surface. This part of the journey is expected to take about 90 minutes. The capsule will then stay at this height for between two and six hours before it begins its descent.



World View Enterprise capsule and balloon

The bosses of the company say that the passengers will be able to walk around inside the capsule. They will be able to see the **curvature** of the Earth and the dark colour of space above them.

When it is time to return the capsule will be disconnected from the helium balloon. It will then begin to 'free fall'. At this time the passengers will experience a period of weightlessness. As the capsule loses height an **inflatable** wing, or parafoil, will slow it down. Near the ground the capsule will start to glide before it finally lands. The descent is expected to take between 20 and 40 minutes. The company says that the cost of a ticket will be US\$75,000 (£46,400).

Even though the passengers will be high above the ground they will not be in space. There is no definite boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and space. The greater the height the thinner the

atmosphere becomes. Most scientists say that you reach space when you cross what's known as the Karman Line. This is 100 kilometres (62 miles) above the surface of the Earth.

World View Enterprise is not the only company that is planning 'space trips'. Virgin Galactic has been testing a specially designed plane that will take eight people to the Karman Line. A wealthy businessman from the UK has set up this company.

Once the Virgin Galactic plane reaches the Karman Line the people inside will be able to float in zero gravity. This period of weightlessness will last for only five minutes before the plane begins its descent.

The first Virgin Galactic flights are expected to start next year. Tickets cost US\$250,000 (£154,500). The company claims that it has already received **deposits** for 500 tickets. Passengers will have to pass a medical check before going on the flight.

A Russian company called Orbital Technologies is planning to launch a small space station in 2016. The company describes it as being like a hotel in space. Paying passengers will be able to stay in the space hotel for as long as 14 days. ■

## TITANIC VIOLIN SOLD

An unusual violin was sold at an auction in the UK on 19th October. The violin was the instrument owned by the leader of the small orchestra or band that was on the *Titanic*. This large passenger ship sank just over 100 years ago in 1912.

When the *Titanic* was built it was the biggest passenger ship in the world. The large ship was designed to take passengers and cargo across the North Atlantic Ocean between the UK and the USA.

On its first trip the *Titanic* hit a part of an iceberg that was under the water. The iceberg damaged some of the metal plates along the side of the ship below the water line. Seawater began to flood in.

The accident happened late at night. Most passengers were in bed. At first many did not know what had happened. But the ship soon began to list, or lean over. The captain realised that the *Titanic* was slowly sinking. Wireless operators were ordered to send out messages asking other ships for help.

Ship's officers were ordered to organise the lifeboats. They made sure that women and children were the first to get into them. However, the *Titanic* did not have enough lifeboats for everyone. What's more some boats left the ship before they were full.



Painting of the sinking of the Titanic

The *Titanic* finally sank around two and a half hours after it hit the iceberg. Over 1,000 passengers and crew members were still on the ship. Many jumped into the sea wearing lifejackets. Most died from the shock of the freezing water, or from the cold soon afterwards.

Another ship eventually arrived about two hours later. By that time, apart from a very few, the only people still alive were those in the lifeboats. The survivors were taken to New York City, in the USA. Of the 2,224 people travelling on the ship 1,517 died.

One of those who died was Wallace Hartley. He was the leader of the ship's orchestra. Including Hartley, the orchestra had eight members. Their job was to perform daily concerts for some of the passengers during the voyage.

Later, survivors described how the orchestra played on the ship's deck. They did this while crew members were organising the loading of the lifeboats. Once all the lifeboats had left, the orchestra continued to play as the ship slowly sank. None of the musicians survived.



Wallace Hartley's violin

In the days following the accident, ships from Canada were sent to the area where the *Titanic* sank. They collected hundreds of bodies that were floating in the water. One was the body of Hartley. He had put his violin in its case and strapped it to his back. Inside the violin case were a number of sheets of music. Some people believe that this was the music the band played when the ship was sinking.

Hartley's body was eventually returned to his father in the UK. The bandleader was buried in his home town in the north of the country. A memorial was erected, or put up, in his honour, near to the town centre. Before she died in 1939 Hartley's fiancée gave the violin to her sister. She passed it to a local bandleader. It was then given to a violin teacher whose family kept it. The seawater damaged the violin so it cannot be played.

At the auction Hartley's violin was sold for £900,000 (US\$1.45

million). The buyer's name was not given out. However, it was reported that the new owner lives in the UK and collects *Titanic* memorabilia. ■

## YETI MYSTERY SOLVED?

A professor from Oxford University, in the UK, may have solved the ancient Yeti mystery. The professor did some DNA tests on hairs from two unknown animals. The hairs came from two places in the Himalayan Mountains. The professor says the tests show that they belong to a type of bear. This, he explains, is a 'new' bear, or one that has never been recorded before.

Many people who live in Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet insist that Yetis – tall, hairy, ape-like creatures – live in the Himalayas. Some people claim to have seen one. Sightings of Yetis in this part of the world go back thousands of years. However, none of these creatures have ever been found or killed.



Is this a real or fake picture of a Yeti?

In recent years several mountain climbers from other countries say they have seen a Yeti. Some photographs have been taken. Yet many people suspect that these pictures have been faked. Most scientists insist that the Yeti is a myth. They argue that it would be difficult for any large animal to live high in the mountains where there is little food.

In the past, some strands of hair have been tested that were thought to come from a Yeti. These were discovered to be hair from other animals, such as goats or bears. Three types of bears are known to live in the Himalayas. These are brown bears, sloth bears and Asiatic black bears.

One of the hairs the professor tested was found in a bamboo forest, in Bhutan, about ten years ago. The other came from northern India. These two places are about 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) apart.

Nowadays DNA testing is much more advanced. It is also possible to compare the results of DNA tests with many of those that have been done in the past. The professor says the DNA from the hairs matched. So they came from the same type of creature. He was then surprised to discover that the DNA also matched another sample. This DNA came from an ancient polar bear's jawbone.

The jawbone was found in Svalbard. This is a group of islands that are part of Norway. It is thought that the jawbone is between 40,000 and 120,000 years old. Polar bears and brown bears are closely related. The jawbone dates back to the time when scientists believe that polar bears and brown bears were becoming separate species. The professor believes that the two hairs come from a creature that is a **hybrid** of these two species. This means it is closely related to a polar bear.

Both hairs are brown in colour. The professor thinks the new creature is about 1.5 metres (five feet) tall. Those who claim to have seen a Yeti say they are about three metres (ten feet) tall, covered in reddish-brown fur, and walk upright. The professor says it is possible that this 'new' bear walks on its back legs.

Many people claim to have seen unusual ape-like creatures in remote places in other parts of the world. These are known as Sasquatch in Canada, Bigfoot in the USA, Yeren in China, Yowie in Australia, Mapinguari in Brazil, Sajarang Gigi in Indonesia, and Mande Barung in north east India.

Several other scientists have said the professor's tests are **convincing**. However, most people are unlikely to believe that any of these ape-like creatures exist until one is caught or killed. ■

## 'BRAIN CLEANING'

A team of scientists in the USA have been studying the brains of mice. They say their work seems to show that the brains of mice 'wash away' toxins, or harmful waste, while they are asleep.

Toxins are poisonous substances that can be produced within living organisms or cells. They can be small molecules or **proteins**. These toxins are harmful and can cause certain diseases.

In mice and other animals there is a system that **circulates** a type of fluid through the brain. The scientists noticed that when mice go to sleep this system is ten times more active. So it works much faster. The fluid is moved or 'pumped' in and out of the brain very quickly.

The team also saw that mice's brain cells get smaller, or shrink, when they are asleep. This makes it easier for the fluid to circulate between them. When the mice wake up their brain cells get bigger. This increase in size almost completely stops the fluid from moving around their brains.

The scientists are sure that the fluid is washing away waste proteins.

These collect in the spaces between the brain cells while the mice are awake. If they are not removed these toxic proteins can harm the brain cells. The scientists describe the process as being a bit like a 'washing machine'.



Human brain

The scientists say their experiments might explain why humans find it difficult to think after a sleepless night. It may also be why animals and humans can die if they do not get any sleep for a long time.

Many researchers have wondered about sleep and evolution. Why do animals and humans go to sleep? When asleep they are more at risk of being attacked by predators.

The scientists who studied the mice brains think that animals and humans cannot wash their brains and stay awake at the same time. This, they suspect, is because the 'washing' uses a lot of energy. So humans would not be able to think, talk and move as well as clean their brains all at the same time. Cleaning the brain might therefore be the reason for sleep.

The increase in the circulation of fluid in the brain has now been recorded in mice and baboons, a type of monkey. So far, no experiments have been done on human brains. However, the scientists say this would not be difficult to do.

The scientists admit that more work needs to be done. Yet, in future, their study might help to find cures for certain diseases that can

affect people's brains. These include Alzheimer's. Over time people with Alzheimer's find it harder and harder to remember things. These types of diseases are often linked to people who find it difficult to sleep. ■

## BATTLE OF NATIONS ANNIVERSARY

On 20th October, thousands of people took part in several events in the city of Leipzig, in eastern Germany. The events were held to mark the 200th anniversary, or bicentenary, of the Battle of Nations (also known as the Battle of Leipzig).



Battle of Nations memorial in Leipzig

The Battle of Nations lasted for four days. It ended on 19th October 1813. The battle was the first major defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte's *Grande Armée*. Until the start of the First World War, in 1914, it was the largest battle ever to have been fought in Europe. The two opposing armies had a total of 600,000 soldiers. The fighting took place both around and within Leipzig.

Napoleon was a military and political leader. He ruled France between 1804 and 1814, and again for around three months in 1815. He crowned himself Emperor of France. Many historians believe Napoleon was one of the best military commanders ever to have lived.



In 1812, after winning many battles in Europe, Napoleon decided to invade Russia. At first his army was successful as the Russian soldiers kept retreating. The two armies eventually met at Borodino, not far from Moscow, the Russian capital city. Neither side managed to defeat the other. Most historians say the battle was a draw.



*Painting of Russian, Austrian and Prussian troops at the Battle of Nations*

The Battle of Borodino features in *War and Peace*. This book, by Leo Tolstoy (1828 – 1910), is thought by many people to be one of the best ever written. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893) commemorated Borodino in his famous *1812 Overture*. The music includes cannon and musket fire as well as church bells ringing in Moscow.

After the battle the Russian army withdrew. Napoleon's army then captured Moscow. He expected the Russian tsar (or king), Alexander the First, to surrender. Yet the surrender never came.

Napoleon's army was a long way from France. Getting supplies and more men was difficult. After staying in Moscow for five weeks Napoleon decided to return to central Europe before the Russian winter weather arrived. As the French soldiers retreated, the Russian army followed.

Other nations such as Austria, Prussia and Sweden then joined Russia in the fight against Napoleon. Then, Germany (as it is today)

was not a single country. Instead it was made up of many separate states or kingdoms. Prussia, which later became part of Germany, was a kingdom in northern Europe.

At the Battle of Nations two German states and thousands of Polish and Italian soldiers fought on Napoleon's side. Over 100,000 men were killed or wounded during the fighting. The day before the battle ended the German states changed sides.

Napoleon, together with thousands of French soldiers, managed to get away from Leipzig and return to France. The following year the Russian army reached Paris, the French capital city. Napoleon was forced to step down. As a punishment he was exiled, or sent to live on the Island of Elba in the Mediterranean Sea.

In under a year Napoleon had escaped from Elba and returned to France. He immediately raised another army. In 1815 British and Prussian forces defeated his new army at the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium. Napoleon was captured. This time he was exiled to the remote island of Saint Helena, in the Atlantic Ocean. He died on the island in 1821, aged 51.

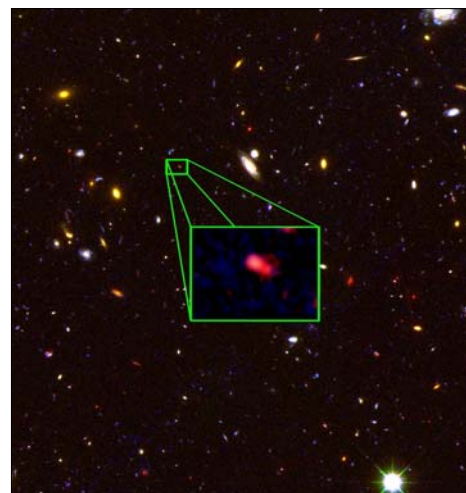
Before the 200th anniversary events in Leipzig began, Martin Schulz, the president of the European Parliament, made a speech. He spoke standing in front of the huge memorial close to the city, which commemorates those who died in the battle.

On 20th October about 6,000 people re-enacted parts of the battle. Over 30,000 spectators watched. Those taking part came from many different European countries. All were dressed in uniforms that would have been worn by the soldiers who fought in the battle 200 years ago. ■

## MOST DISTANT GALAXY

A team of American astronomers, or scientists who study the stars and planets, recently announced that they had detected the farthest known galaxy in the Universe. To make their discovery the team used the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Telescope, in Hawaii.

Scientists believe that the Universe began with what is known as a 'Big Bang'. This happened about 13.8 billion years ago. The Big Bang theory says no space, time, matter, or energy existed before the Big Bang.



*Newly discovered 'edge of space' galaxy. Green lines show both location and enlarged image*

The name 'Big Bang' makes it sound as if there was a giant explosion. This is misleading. Scientists often say the best way to imagine how the Universe was formed is to think of a very tiny balloon. The balloon is the Universe, which gradually keeps getting bigger and bigger, or expanding, in all directions. However, unlike a balloon, no extra 'air' is being 'blown' into the Universe.

The distant galaxy has been given the name z8\_GND\_5296. It is about 30 billion light years away. The speed of light is roughly 300,000

kilometres (186,400 miles) per second. One light year is the distance that light travels in one year.

The American astronomers were able to work out how far away the galaxy is by using something called 'redshift'. As the Universe is expanding all the time, everything is moving away from the Earth. This means that light waves become 'stretched'. This makes distant space objects, when seen from the Earth, look much redder than they really are. Redshift is like a scale of this red colour. The redder an object the farther away it is.

Because of the time it takes light to travel the huge distances in space, images we now see of distant objects are what they looked like millions of years ago. This means looking deep into space is like looking back in time. So the image of z8\_GND\_5296 is what it looked

like 13.1 billion years ago. This is only 700 million years after the Big Bang. Therefore, the distant galaxy is not just the 'farthest' found so far but also the 'earliest'.

The reason this galaxy is now 30 billion light years away is because the Universe keeps expanding. Some people have even described the far away galaxy as being 'on the edge of space'.

The astronomers are able to find out many things about the distant galaxy from the telescope recordings. For example, 13.1 billion years ago it was producing roughly 300 new stars a year. This is hundreds of times faster than stars are created in our own galaxy, the Milky Way. Furthermore, at that time, the distant galaxy was only about 1.5% of the mass of the Milky Way.

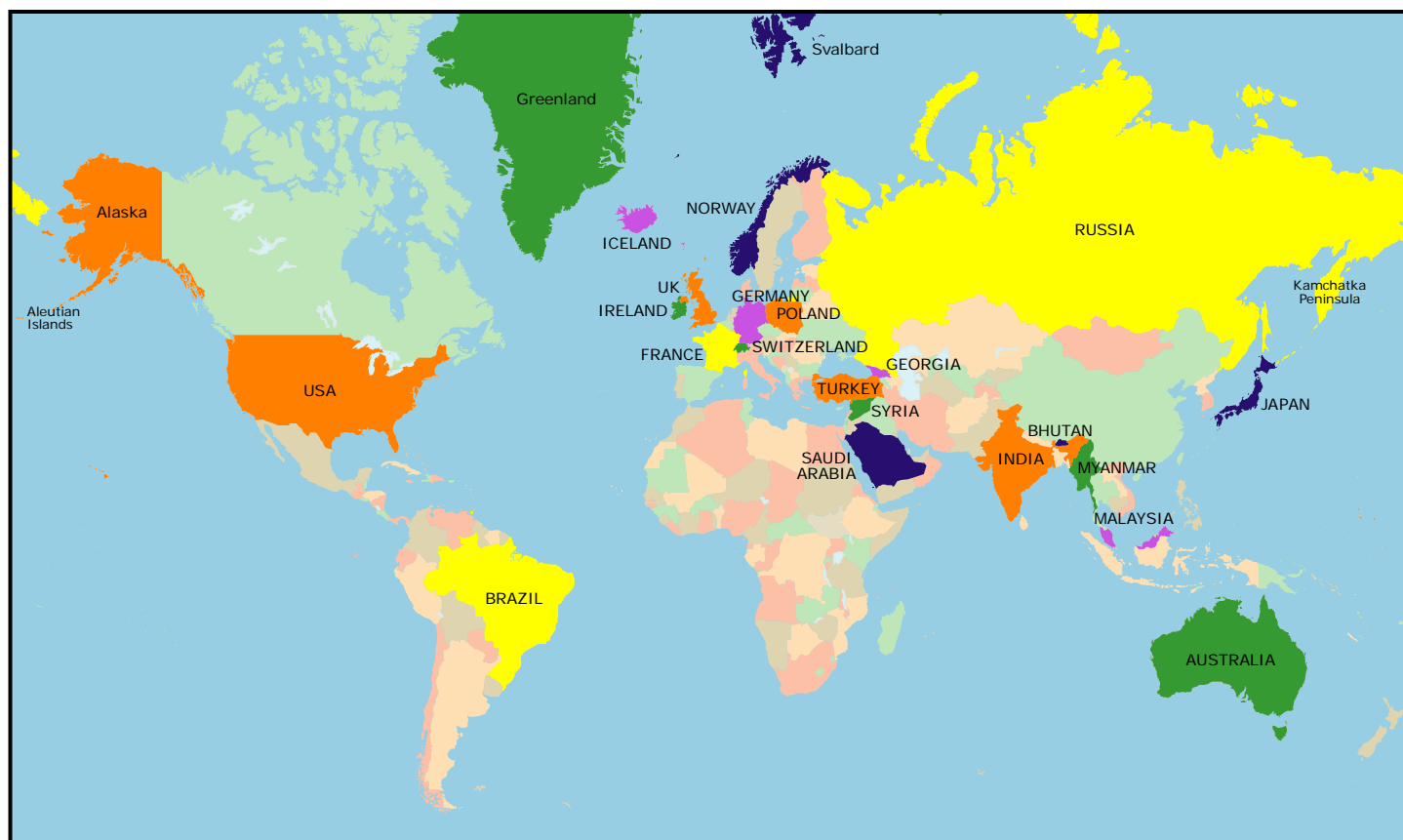
The Hubble Space Telescope is named after Edwin Hubble (1889 –

1953). He was an American astronomer. Hubble discovered many galaxies beyond our own Milky Way. He was also the first person to work out that the Universe is expanding. ▣

## EUROPE ASIA TUNNEL OPENS

A special ceremony was held in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey, on 29th October. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's prime minister, and Shinzō Abe, the prime minister of Japan, attended it. The ceremony marked the official opening of the first tunnel to be built under the Bosphorus strait.

The Bosphorus is part of a sea channel that connects the Black Sea to the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. The channel is made up of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles. Together these are



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit [www.newsademic.com](http://www.newsademic.com) for more detailed world maps.

known as the Turkish Straits. This sea channel is the boundary between Europe and Asia.

Throughout history the Bosphorus has been a place of **strategic** importance. This is why the Roman emperor Constantine decided to build his new capital city next to the Bosphorus in 330 CE. He named the city Constantinople. Today it is called Istanbul. Over the years the city has grown much bigger. Its buildings are on both sides of the Bosphorus. Istanbul is now home to 15 million people.

The Bosphorus is about 31 kilometres (19 miles) long. At its widest it is 3.5 kilometres (2.2 miles) across. Yet some parts are much narrower. Many ferries sail from one side to the other. In Istanbul there are two bridges that cross the Bosphorus. Around two million people use these bridges every day. So traffic jams are not unusual.

Building work on the tunnel first started in 2004. Mr Erdoğan supported the project. Then he was the mayor of Istanbul. The tunnel has been designed to withstand earthquakes. It is part of a new underground, or metro, railway line.



Satellite picture of Turkish Straits

So far about 15 kilometres (nine miles) of the metro line and three stations have been built. When completed the line will be 76 kilometres (47 miles) long with 37 stations. Building work has taken longer than expected. This was because the

construction uncovered an important archaeological site. Work was delayed while tens of thousands of items were excavated, or dug up. These included hundreds of clay pots as well as the remains of 30 ships. These date back to medieval times, or over 800 years ago.

The tunnel is 1.4 kilometres (0.9 miles) long. It is about 60 metres (197 feet) below the seabed. Engineers first dug an underwater trench. Separate sections of the tunnel were then lowered into the trench and fitted together. The sections are made of concrete and steel. Once all of them were connected the trench was covered over.

For hundreds of years Turkey was the centre of the Ottoman Empire. After the end of the First World War (1914 – 1918) the empire became many different countries. On October 29, 1923 Turkey was officially declared to be a republic. The tunnel opening ceremony therefore took place on the country's 90th anniversary.

Banks from Japan have helped to raise money to build the metro line. This was why the Japanese prime minister was invited to the opening ceremony. ■

## MINING IN GREENLAND

On 24th October members of Greenland's parliament voted to end its ban on uranium mining. Permission was also given to a mining company to build and operate a huge new iron ore mine.

Greenland is known to have many natural resources. These include oil and gas fields that are under the seabed close to the coast. Valuable rare earth minerals have also been discovered.

Only 57,000 people live in Greenland. It is the world's largest island. (Australia is bigger, but it is **defined** as a continent.) Greenland used to be a Danish colony. In 1979 Denmark gave Greenland permission to set up its own parliament. Now it is a self-ruling province of the Kingdom of Denmark. The parliament, known as the Landsting, is in Nuuk, Greenland's capital city.

At first the Landsting made rules about things such as schools, hospitals and medical care. In 2009 Denmark agreed that Greenland could also make decisions about its natural resources.



Nuuk, capital of Greenland

Traditionally Greenland makes its money by selling the fish and shrimp that its fishermen catch. However, it still relies on Denmark, which gives its former colony about 3.5 billion kroner (£400 million) each year. This money is used to pay for public services such as schools and hospitals.

An election for the Landsting was held last March. A party led by Aleqa Hammond won. She then became Greenland's first woman prime minister. Before the election Ms Hammond said that she wanted to end the mining ban. She explained that mining companies would have to pay a royalty, or fixed amount, for everything they dug up, or extracted.

In recent years warmer temperatures have been melting much of the sea ice around Greenland. This



means it is easier for large ships to reach the island throughout the year. Nowadays mined resources can be easily shipped to other countries.

The company that has been given permission to run the iron ore mine is based in London, the capital of the UK. The mine will be about 150 kilometres (93 miles) from Nuuk. It will be an open cast mine. This is like a big hole in the ground. Most of the iron ore extracted will be transported to China. There it will be used to make steel. Many of the 3,000 people who will work to set up the mine are expected to come from China.

The rare earth minerals in Greenland contain uranium. Therefore the ending of the uranium ban means rare earth ores can now also be mined. Uranium is used in nuclear power stations.

Rare earth is the name given to a group of 17 elements. Many have difficult names to remember or pronounce, such as praseodymium or lanthanum.

Today rare earth minerals are very important. Some people even describe them as '21st century gold'. This is because they are needed to make many of the latest high tech items such as flat-screen televisions, electric cars, wind turbines, computers and mobile phones. Rare earth elements have special thermal, optical, electrical, and magnetic [properties](#). Currently about 90% of all the rare earth elements used in the world come from China.

Some people say that Greenland is one of the world's few remaining unspoilt areas. They therefore argue that ending the mining ban is wrong. Ms Hammond claims that mining iron ore, rare earth elements and uranium will improve Greenland's economy. It will also help to create more jobs. She says that all mining

companies in Greenland will have to make sure that they do not damage the environment. ■

## SAUDI ARABIA UN PROTEST

Each year the United Nations (UN) votes for five countries to be non-permanent members of the Security Council. These five then have a seat on the UN Security Council for the next two years.

On 17th October the five new non-permanent members were announced. They are Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia. These countries are due to take their seats on the Security Council on 1st January 2014.

However, the day after the announcement Saudi Arabia declared that it would refuse to take its seat. Officials in the country accused the UN Security Council of 'double standards'. This means not being fair, or favouring one group over another. The Saudi officials said their decision was a protest. This has never happened before.

The UN was set up after the Second World War (1939 – 1945). Its headquarters is in New York City, in the USA. The UN's main job is to try to keep peace and security among all the nations in the world. It currently has 193 member countries.

The UN's Security Council has 15 members. Five, the USA, the UK, Russia, France, and China are permanent members, so others never replace them. The permanent members can veto, or block, any votes taken by the Security Council, if they do not agree with them.

The ten other countries, which make up the Security Council, are non-permanent members. They are selected from different regions of the world. This means there is always a non-permanent member that is an Arab or African country as well as one from Eastern Europe, Asia, Western Europe and Latin America. Non-permanent members sit on the Security Council for two years.

All UN members vote for the five countries that will replace those that have been non-permanent members



### UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

#### Permanent member countries:

France      Russia      China      USA      UK

#### Current non-permanent member countries:

##### Asia-Pacific

Republic of Korea  
Pakistan (replaced by Saudi Arabia\*†)

##### Western Europe and Other

Australia  
Luxembourg

##### Latin America and Caribbean

Argentina  
Guatemala (replaced by Chile\*)

##### Africa and Arab Group

Rwanda  
Togo (replaced by Nigeria\*)  
Morocco (replaced by Chad\*)

##### Eastern Europe

Azerbaijan (replaced by Lithuania\*)

\* From January 1, 2014      † Withdrawn

for the last two years. These votes usually take place in October.

Many countries want to have a seat on the Security Council. This is because it makes many of the UN's most important decisions. For example, the Security Council can vote to punish nations if they are thought to have done something wrong. This punishment is usually ordering other member countries to stop trading with them. The Security Council can even order a military attack, or send peacekeeping forces to prevent wars and conflicts.

This year Saudi Arabia announced that it wanted to be one of the new non-permanent members. This was the first time it had done this for many years. People were therefore surprised about its decision not to take up its seat, especially as it had just been chosen.

Officials in Saudi Arabia explained that they are unhappy with the UN Security Council. For example, they claim it has done nothing to help people in Syria.

The war in Syria began two and a half years ago. So far around 100,000 people have died in the fighting. On one side is the Syrian army. It supports the country's president, Bashar al-Assad. On the other side are several groups that dislike Mr al-Assad and his government. These opposition groups are often called the 'rebels'.

Saudi Arabia and countries such as the USA, France and the UK support the rebels. Yet, traditionally, Russia has been on the side of the Syrian government. It believes that supporting the rebels will make things worse.

The USA, France and the UK disagree with Russia about what should be done in Syria. All four are permanent members of the UN Security Council. Russia has said it

will veto any Security Council vote on Syria that it thinks is a bad idea. Most people therefore believe that, until these countries agree, the UN will not be able to end the war. ■

## POLITICAL CHANGES IN GEORGIA

An election for the new president of Georgia took place on 27th October. After the votes had been counted it was announced that Giorgi Margvelashvili had won.

The election marks the end of Mikheil Saakashvili's ten years as Georgia's president. Mr Saakashvili did not take part in the election. This is because Georgia's constitution, or rules by which the country is governed, says that a person can only be president for two five-year terms.



*Giorgi Margvelashvili, Georgia's new president*

Georgia used to be part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. It, like many other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, became an independent nation in 1990. This was when the old Soviet Union began to break up.

Mr Saakashvili became Georgia's president after what is known as the Rose Revolution. Because of large street demonstrations the country's previous leader was forced to step down. Mr Saakashvili, who at that time was only 36 years old, led the protests. Before becoming president he worked as a lawyer in the USA.

Mr Saakashvili wanted Georgia to have closer links with Europe. He believed that Georgia should join the European Union (EU). He also wanted the country to become a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). This angered Russia.

In 2008 Mr Saakashvili was re-elected for another five years. In the same year a war broke out between Russia and Georgia. It lasted for five days. Russian troops easily defeated the Georgian army. They then occupied half of the country. After the war, two of the country's regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, decided to leave Georgia and become independent. Russia has continued to support them.

Mr Saakashvili used to be a popular leader. Yet after the war many people said he changed. They accused him and his government of becoming corrupt and too strict. They also claimed that Mr Saakashvili had given the police too many powers.

Last year there was an election for Georgia's parliament. Mr Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM) party did badly. A newly formed party, called Georgian Dream, won.

Bidzina Ivanishvili set up Georgia Dream. He is a wealthy businessman and the richest person in Georgia. Mr Ivanishvili said that he formed the new party because he was unhappy about how Mr Saakashvili was running the country. As Georgia Dream won the election, Mr Ivanishvili became Georgia's prime minister.

In 2010 it was agreed that the political system in Georgia would change. The change would begin with the election of a new president in 2013.

Under the new system, the prime minister would be in charge of the country. He or she would have more power than the president. This is

similar to many other nations such as Austria, Italy and Turkey. In these places the president acts as the country's head of state, or **figurehead**. The prime minister and his government make all the important decisions.

Mr Margvelashvili was selected as Georgia Dream's presidential candidate. In the election he got 62% of the votes. The UNM's candidate, David Bakradze, came second with 22%. Because of the changes in Georgia's political system Mr Margvelashvili will be the country's new head of state. As prime minister, Mr Ivanishvili will now run the country. ■

## AUNG SAN SUU KYI IN NORTHERN IRELAND

On 24th August Aung San Suu Kyi travelled to Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK. Ms Suu Kyi is an opposition leader in Myanmar (also known as Burma). She said that she wanted to visit this part of the UK to learn more about the 'peace process' in Northern Ireland.

Myanmar has been controlled by a group of military leaders, or former military leaders, since 1962. Twenty-five years ago Ms Suu Kyi formed a new political party in Myanmar called the National League for Democracy (NLD). In 1990 the country's military government, or junta, organised elections. It expected to win. Yet when the NLD got 80% of the votes the military junta ignored the result.

NLD supporters arranged large demonstrations. The junta sent armed soldiers to stop the street protests. Shots were fired and many people were killed. When force is used in this way it is often described as a 'crackdown'.

Many NLD members were put in prison. The crackdown continued for over 20 years. Ms Suu Kyi was held under house arrest. This meant she was not allowed to leave her home. Anyone wanting to visit her had to get special permission. In 1991 the people who select the Nobel awards gave the Peace Prize to Ms Suu Kyi.

Ms Suu Kyi was eventually released in 2010. The following year the junta organised more elections. The NLD refused to take part. It said the elections had been fixed so only those who supported the military leaders would win. Thein Sein, a former army general, became the country's new president. Many think it was Thein Sein who arranged to end Ms Suu Kyi's house arrest.



Aung San Suu Kyi

In early 2012 another smaller election was held. Ms Suu Kyi and her supporters decided to take part. They did well. Now the NLD is represented in the country's parliament. However, most agree that the military is still in control of Myanmar.

Another problem in Myanmar is violence against Muslims. Most people in the country are Buddhists. Yet many Muslims live in the central and eastern parts of Myanmar. Muslims in the country claim to have been **persecuted** for many years. Two years ago fighting broke out between Buddhist and Muslim groups. Hundreds of people have been killed. Most were Muslims.

Many Muslim homes have been set on fire and destroyed. Now around 140,000 Muslims in Myanmar are living in **makeshift** camps.

Many people accuse Myanmar's leaders of not doing anything to stop the violence. Ms Suu Kyi says both sides are to blame.

In Northern Ireland militant Protestant and Catholic groups fought against each other for many years. The militant Catholic group, known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA), wanted Northern Ireland to become part of the Republic of Ireland. The Protestant political and militant groups insisted that Northern Ireland should remain part of the UK.

In 1998 the UK government managed to get the different groups to accept a peace agreement. Later on elections were held. Now members of Catholic and Protestant political groups jointly govern Northern Ireland. What has happened in Northern Ireland is often called the 'peace process'. Many world leaders believe that the same 'process' could be used to solve similar problems in other parts of the world.

While in Northern Ireland Ms Suu Kyi spoke with Catholic and Protestant political leaders. She said that what she learnt might help people in Myanmar live peacefully with each other. ■

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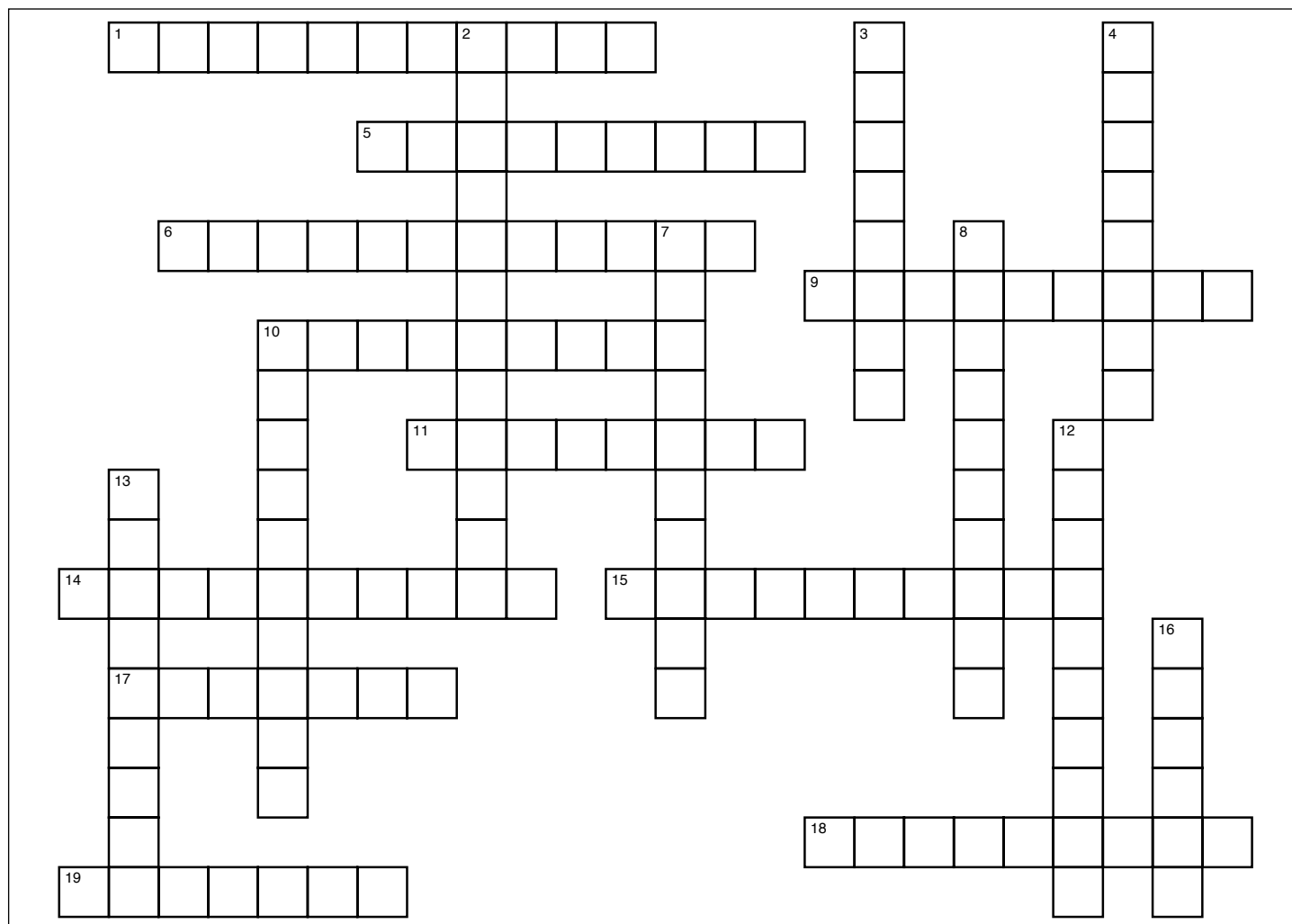
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# ISSUE 209

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



### ACROSS

- 1 Noun** Items associated with a person, group or event that other people want to collect
- 5 Noun (Plural)** Areas around the outside of a city, town or village
- 6 Noun** The careful watching of a person to check what he or she is doing
- 9 Adjective** Describes something basic used for a short time when nothing else is available
- 10 Adjective** Not allowed by order or law
- 11 Noun (Plural)** The first payments made when buying things that are expensive or need to be reserved
- 14 Noun (Plural)** The qualities of a substance or material, or the ways in which something can be used
- 15 Verb** Moves around
- 17 Verb** Claimed to be
- 18 Adjective** Describes gaining an advantage by military or political plans
- 19 Verb** Stated the exact the meaning of something

### DOWN

- 2 Noun** Useful information that has been gathered about an enemy
- 3 Adjective** Stronger or more important than anything else of the same type
- 4 Noun (Plural)** Large organic (or natural) molecules that are in all living things, for example to make the structure of healthy tissues and muscles; found in foods such as meat, cheese, fish or eggs
- 7 Adjective** Describes something that makes people believe it's true
- 8 Verb** Given an official name, title or purpose
- 10 Noun** A leader who has no real power
- 12 Verb** Continually mistreated somebody or a group of people
- 13 Noun** The amount by which something is curved or bent
- 16 Noun** Something made by combining two things

# ISSUE 209

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

S E I T R E P O R P F G V C Y W T A  
 U E G Z L Z C H F O R B I D D E N I  
 R S T R I K S T U O P L Y C D B A L  
 V T N A M S T I S O P E D O E E J I  
 E R J N L K N I L T S D W N T M V B  
 I A R W Y U D I B S I X X V A X V A  
 L T Z Z L E C M E R D E F I N E D R  
 L E I G P R Z R B T R L U N G E K O  
 A G X F D U H Y I K O B C C I T O M  
 N I O V Y T H A Z C W R E I S D U E  
 C C D L O A J L Z Z G N P N E Y D M  
 E Z F S P V D L F F R K N G D U E P  
 Q V B P E R S E C U T E D R P Y G C  
 F M Q B A U E J H U I I T R B T E N  
 J D W Y M C S X Q F E Q F I D H L W  
 C T F I H S E K A M Q D I X R F L O  
 A S S Q R C A G F I G U R E H E A D  
 I N T E L L I G E N C E Z T H L J H

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

Demics are tokens that Individual and Family Subscribers can earn. They are awarded for answering this Glossary Puzzle and/or the Daily News question – accessible by logged in users – correctly. Demics earned can be used by Family and Individual Subscribers in the Newsademic online store.

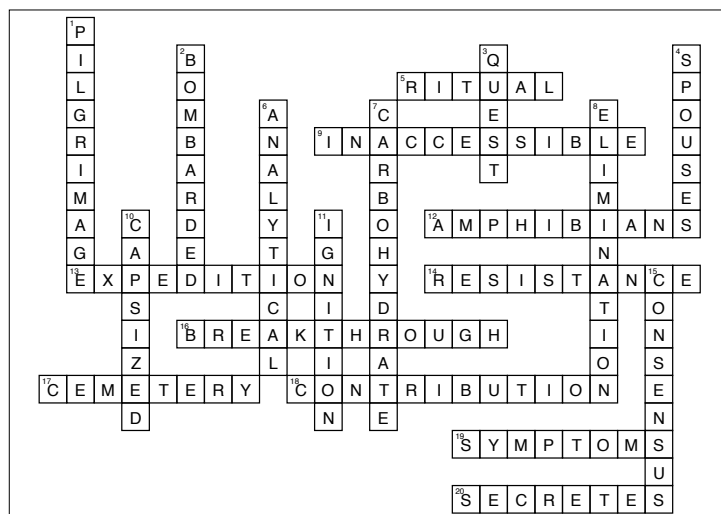


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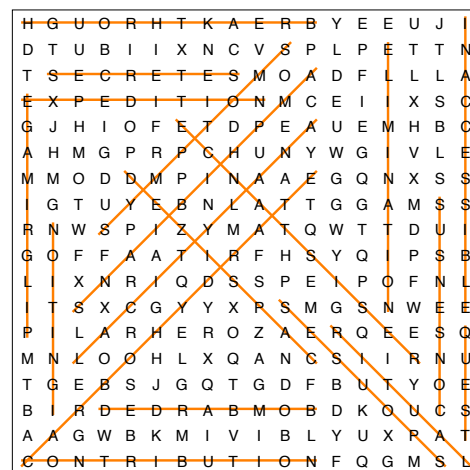
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If you wish to earn additional Demics log in to [www.newsademic.com](http://www.newsademic.com), go to the Prize Competitions area and submit the missing word. Puzzle entries must be submitted by 10 pm on 13th November 2013 (GMT/UTC).\*

MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 208 ANSWERS



C E M E T E R Y